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NEWS RELEASE

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Idaho Delegation Reacts to Softwood Lumber Agreement

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Idaho Congressional Delegation issued the following reaction to today's announcement of a new U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement:

"We commend our trade negotiators, led by U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Susan Schwab and USTR General Counsel Jim Mendenhall, and the coalition of U.S. timber industries, for their great effort to bring about a negotiated settlement. This long-sought-after agreement represents an important milestone and commitment in the trade relationship between the United States and Canada, and paves the way for a long-term solution to this difficult issue.

"We strongly encourage all parties to remain committed to the implementation of this agreement and hope that the delay until final implementation does not provide those who opposed the settlement, on both sides of the border, with additional time to sink this hard-fought agreement. We expect that the finalized agreement will lead to termination of all litigation, and all parties now can focus on necessary changes to implement the agreement."